

Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff is founder, board member and former CEO and CSO of Cytonome/ST, a company developing and manufacturing purpose-built cell sorters. She also serves on the boards of the Massachusetts Life Science Center and ATCC, an independent, private, nonprofit biological resource center and research organization. She is a member of the National Research Council standing Committee on Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine and a member of NSF Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering, her second appointment (earlier term 1993-1996). She is a founding member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS); she has served as board member and Vice President and currently serves as a member of the Committee of Senior Advisors. She has served on the board of AAAS and the Advisory Councils for National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke and the Biology Directorate of NSF.

Dr. Villa-Komaroff held faculty positions at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Children's Hospital, Boston, and Harvard Medical School. As an administrator she served as Acting Director of the Division of Neuroscience, Children's Hospital; Vice President for Research at Northwestern University; and Vice President for Research and Chief Operating Officer of the Whitehead Institute.

Dr. Villa-Komaroff is a fellow of AAAS and AWIS. She has been honored by election to the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Hall of Fame, a Lifetime Achievement Award by Hispanic Business Magazine, selection as 2008 Hispanic Scientist of the Year by the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida, and 2013 Woman of Distinction by the American Association of University Women.

Dr. Villa-Komaroff received her BA from Goucher College and her Ph.D. in Cell Biology from MIT. As a postdoc in Walter Gilbert's laboratory, she was lead author of a landmark paper reporting the first synthesis of mammalian insulin in bacterial cells. During her career as a bench scientist, she focused on using the methods of recombinant DNA to address a number of fundamental questions in different fields. Her current interests include underrepresented groups in STEM, institutional governance, and cell therapies.